STORIES

FOI

Summer Dags & Winter Dights.

SECOND SERIES.

THE SHIP

AND THE ISLAND.

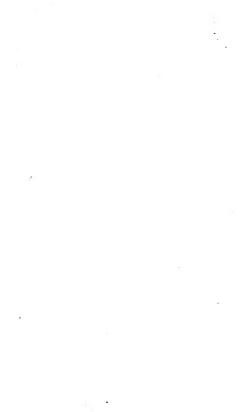
LONDON:

GROOMBRIDGE AND SONS,

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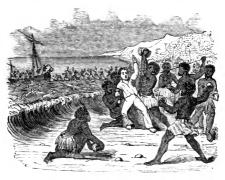
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SHANKINGNANS
CHILDREN'S BOOK
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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES
SHANKINGNANS



THE

SHIP AND THE ISLAND.



The Attack at Tofoa.

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Tondon:

GROOMBRIDGE AND SONS,

PATERNOSTER ROW.

"O'er the glad waters of the dark blue sea, Our thoughts as boundless, and our souls as free, Far as the breeze can bear, the billows foam, Survey our empire, and behold our home! These are our realms, no limits to their sway— Our flag the sceptre all who meet obey. Ours the wild life in tumult still to range From toil to rest, and Joy in every change."

THE SHIP AND THE ISLAND.

CHAPTER I.

THE BOUNTY SAILS FOR TAHITI-COLLECTING THE BREAD-FRUIT PLANTS-THE MUTINY.

'Grandfather! I want to speak to you.'

'Well, my little boy; what have you to say?'

'Can't you guess, grandfather? I want you to

tell us another story.

'Oh, that's it, is it? Well, go and call your brothers and sisters; and then we will settle what it shall be about.'

'Now, grandfather, we are all ready. You once said that some extraordinary events had taken place in the last century; can you not tell us something

about them?

'Quite right; many events took place in the last century, some of them the most interesting and extraordinary the world has ever seen. There were the great American War of Independence, the voyages of Captain Cook round the world, and the memorable French Revolution, besides so many wonderful inventions and discoveries, that you would grow tired of listening to all the stories that could be told about them.

'Oh, grandfather! we can never grow tired of your stories; we have been thinking we should like one about adventures on the sea.'

'It shall be as you like, children: so listen.'

When Captain Cook came back from his voyages of discovery, before he met with an untimely death far away from his native land, he brought accounts of many curious and valuable things which he had seen in foreign countries. Among these was the breadfruit tree, which grows to the size of an ordinary oak, with long drooping leaves, and bears a fruit nearly in the shape of a pumpkin and larger than a child's head. When the fruit is full-grown it is plucked while green, and roasted, and then the soft white pith or pulp with which it is filled has an agreeable taste, something like that of wheaten bread and artichoke, and is much relished, not only by natives of the countries where it grows, but also by travellers from other lands. It lasts in season for eight months of the year, and is often produced by the trees in prodigious quantities. When this fruit was heard of in England, many people thought it would make excellent food for the negroes, who were then slaves in the West Indies, if it could be made to grow there; and, after considering the matter, the government gave orders for a ship to be fitted out to sail to the South Sea Islands, to collect a number of bread-fruit plants, and convey them to Jamaica. This was about sixty years ago.

A vessel named the Bounty was accordingly made ready, and fitted up with shelves and racks to hold the pots and tubs, so that they should not be injured by the rolling of the ship in stormy weather, and two gardeners were appointed to take care of them. The commander was Lieutenant Bligh, who had been out with Captain Cook; next to him came the officers, and last the crew, making altogether forty-six persons on board; and being provided with every thing necessary for the success of the voyage, the Bounty sailed from England two days before Christmas in the year 1787.

Captain Bligh, as we must now call him, was ordered to sail to the Pacific Ocean by way of Cape Horn. If you look at a map you will see this cape quite at the lower end of South America. The weather in that part is so very stormy that ships are frequently several weeks in getting round from one ocean to the other. It happened so to the Bountyshe was stopped by the tempestuous gales: the captain therefore sailed away to the Cape of Good Hope, which is an easier though longer passage, and at last after a voyage of ten months he arrived at Otaheite, or Tahiti, as it is now called, one of the Society Islands. In the southern ocean there are many beautiful islands, and Tahiti is one of the most beautiful. Thick forests grow far up the slopes of the lofty mountains which rise in the interior; and the cool deep valleys and pleasant plains are sheltered and adorned by a luxuriant vegetation, while brooks of clear and sparkling water leap down from the sides of the hills and make a lively noise over the stones as they flow swiftly to the sea. The climate is one perpetual summer; the trees are always green; and besides the bread-fruit and cocoa-nut, shaddock and plantain, there are other rare and delicious fruits which grow almost without the trouble of cultivation. The natives are a good-looking, tractable, and friendly race; but when first discovered they would at times have barbarous wars among themselves, and they had a cruel custom of killing numbers of their infants soon after they were born. Although they had none but stone tools, they could build houses, and canoes, and ornament them with tasteful carvings, as neatly as if made with iron tools. In these canoes they would sail to different parts of the coast or to distant islands either for peaceful or warlike purposes. Sometimes they went fishing, with hooks formed of pieces of shell, or nets made of the stringy bark of a tree; or, if not inclined to labour, they amused themselves for hours swimming and diving among the coral rocks, which they could do almost as well as the fishes. On land or in water their lives were spent in indolent pleasure without thought for the morrow. At last some missionaries from England went to live among them and instruct them in better knowledge; and now they have adopted some of our European customs, and have churches and schools, and printing-presses, and bibles

and school-books in their own language.

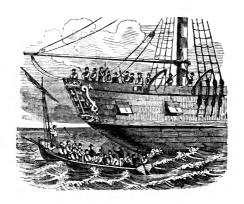
As soon as the ship arrived at Tahiti, Captain Bligh made preparations for collecting bread-fruit plants; he talked with some of the chiefs whom he had seen on his former visit, and to the king and queen, and gave them presents. In return for these. great numbers of plants were sent to him, which the gardeners set in the pots and tubs, and kept under a large tent erected near the beach, until the time came for placing them in the ship. While this work was in progress the sailors were allowed to go on shore, where they soon made friends and acquaintances among the natives; and several of them were so pleased with the new kind of life, that they deserted, and ran away to the woods, intending to live always on the island; but the captain got some of the chiefs to go in pursuit, and the runaways were brought back again. At length, when more than a thousand plants had been collected, they were put on board the ship-the Englishmen said good bye to their Tahitian friends-the Bounty's anchor was raised, and she sailed on her homeward voyage on the 4th of April, 1789, after a stay of nearly six months.

Captain Bligh was a good seaman, but he was a severe and overbearing commander. More than once he had ordered the sailors to be flogged, instead of adopting milder means of punishment, and he quarrelled frequently with his officers, which gave rise to a spirit of discontent. The voyage, however, went on pleasantly for two or three weeks, during which the ship touched at several of the numerous islands which lie in the South Sea, not far from Tahiti, to complete her store of fresh provisions. Among the officers was Fletcher Christian, one of the mates, who had suffered so much from the captain's severe temper, that he resolved on attempting to escape from the vessel. They were then passing a little to the southward of Tofoa, one of the Friendly Islands : it was a calm and beautiful night, such as can only be seen in the tropical latitudes; he therefore set about making a raft upon which he thought he might reach the island, which was not very far off. It was a daring and hazardous scheme, for if he had failed to reach the shore, he might have drifted about on the wide ocean until he starved miserably to death. He was still busy when one of his companions advised him not to risk his life in that way, and said it would be better to try to get possession of the ship. This was, perhaps, not said in earnest, but Christian immediately resolved to make the attempt; and to make sure of escaping from punishment in case of failure, he tied the heavy sounding-lead to his body underneath his clothes, so that he might jump overboard and sink speedily beyond recovery, should his project be discovered. Anger is sure to lead us astray, and make us take desperate resolutions, whereas if we take time to reflect and grow cool we shall save ourselves much trouble and vexation.

It was Christian's turn to keep the morning watch, so that for four hours after midnight, on the 28th of April, he had the command of the deck all to himself. He went about among the crew, and asked them to join him in a scheme to make the captain prisoner, and then go where they liked with the ship. Some refused to have anything to do with such a dangerous attempt, but others agreed to help,

and said, 'We are for it—it is the very thing;' so that by daybreak they were ready to begin. All the mutineers, as rebellious sailors are called, were armed with guns, swords, and pistols; some were stationed with fixed bayonets at the officers' cabins to prevent their coming out, while Christian, with two or three more, went down to the captain's cabin, where he was lying asleep in his cot, and suddenly binding his arms behind his back with a rope. they dragged him up to the deck in his shirt, and set a guard over him. He called out loudly to the crew to return to their duty, and remonstrated with them on their shameful conduct, but all to no purpose, for they threatened to kill him if he did not hold his tongue. Meantime there was great confusion, and shouting, and running here and there; some were for getting rid of the captain and those that were faithful to him by setting them adrift in the smallest boat, while others said that one of the larger boats should be given. At last, the boat called the launch was lowered down into the sea, though not without another dispute, as several of the men declared that if the captain had so large a boat, he would be sure to make his way to England, and then their crime would be known. However, the launch was suffered to remain, and some provisions, canvas, cordage, a quadrant and compass, and other things likely to be useful, were collected and put into her; all those who had not joined the mutineers' party were made to get into her also, and then Christian stepping up to the commander, said, "Come, Captain Bligh, your officers and men are now in the boat, and you must go with them; if you attempt to make the least resistance, you will instantly be put to death." No sooner had he spoken, than the captain was forced over the side, his arms were unbound, and he took his place among the unfortunate and crowded party in the little vessel.

Presently the rope which held the boat to the ship was cast off, and there she was left, with all those on board of her to shift for themselves on the wide ocean.



CHAPTER II.

THE BOAT-PARTY LAND AT TOFOA—ATTACKED BY THE NATIVES—PERILOUS VOYAGE—EXTREME SUFFERINGS—RELIEF AT NEW HOLLAND—RETURN TO ENGLAND.

TWENTY-FIVE men, the best and most able part of the crew, remained on board the ship. Just before parting with the boat they had laughed and jeered at those whom they had so inhumanly turned adrift; perhaps to revenge themselves for the severities which the captain had made them suffer. Then they set up a cry, 'Huzza! for Otaheite,' and steered away, and in a few hours were out of sight of their

late companions.

When the ship disappeared, the party in the boat felt that all hope of relief from those on board of her was over, and took measures to provide for their own safety. Fortunately the sea was calm, and they rowed towards Tofoa, which was about thirty niles off, in hopes of getting some bread-fruit and increasing their supply of water. Their whole stock of provisions was found to be 150 pounds of biscuit, about thirty pounds of pork, twenty-eight gallons of water, six quarts of rum, and six bottles of wine. This was all, for the support of eighteen men, who were then thousands of miles from any civilised settlement, and crowded into a small vessel in which there was not room for them to lie down or stretch themselves out when weary. They got to the island just as night came on, but the shore was so steep

and rocky that they could not land, so they remained a short distance from the shore till morning, when they found a little cove or bay, where they landed in safety. They stayed at the island four days, and sent parties out to search for cocoa-nuts, or any kind of provisions, as they wished to make their own little stock last as long as possible. One of the parties fell in with about thirty of the natives, who at first seemed inclined to be friendly, and went down to the boat with some provisions and water. On the 2nd of May the natives collected near where the boat was anchored in great numbers, and as Captain Bligh found that neither provisions or water were to be had, he determined to stay no longer, and ordered every man to embark. No sooner was this done than the two hundred natives who stood round began to throw large and heavy stones, so that all the party were more or less hurt, and one of the men who had run up the beach to untie the line that held the boat fast was knocked down and killed by the savages. Some of the natives seized hold of the rope and tried to pull the boat on shore, but the captain cut it with a knife which he had in his pocket, and then the sailors rowed away to get beyond the reach of the stones which flew as fast as shot. The natives, however, jumped into their canoes and followed them, knowing that the Englishmen had no guns to keep them at a distance, and kept on throwing stones, which grievously wounded and bruised the poor men in the boat. At last Captain Bligh bethought himself of scattering some old clothes on the water, which were so great a temptation to the savages that they stopped to pick them up, and then as it was nearly dark, they gave over the pursuit.

Thus the Englishmen escaped from the peril, having lost one of their number by a cruel death. They set sail on the boat, and steered farther away from the shore, considering what was best to be done. The men were so terrified at the danger that had threatened them, that they begged the cap-tain to take them towards home, where alone they could hope for safety. How true it is, children, that when we are in distress or difficulty, our hearts turn towards home as fondly as a bird to her nest! But the home of these poor men lay far away, quite on the other side of the world, and the captain told them that the nearest European settlement was a Dutch colony on the island of Timor, nearly four thousand miles distant, which you will see in the map lying between the great islands of Borneo and New Holland. It was a long voyage for so small a boat; but all hands made up their minds to attempt it, and to make the provisions hold out, promised to live on one ounce of biscuit and a quarter-of-apint of water each day. It was a desperate venture, but it was the only one that promised any relief. They gave thanks to Heaven for their preservation, and resigned themselves to undergo what was before them.

The next day, Sunday, the 3rd of May, the wind blew a strong gale; the sea rose, and the waves came curling over the sides of the boat, so that she would soon have filled with water had the men not worked continually at baling it out. Besides which, they and nearly everything else in the little vessel were made miserably wet, and the biscuit would have been quite spoiled, only that the carpenter happened to have his tool-chest on board; the tools were taken out and the biscuit packed inside of it, where it was kept dry. In their almost hopeless state every ounce of provisions was valuable; the captain being determined to make them last for eight weeks. The force of the wind, and dashing of the sea, made the whole party so cold and benumbed that a quarter of a bread-fruit and a tea-spoonful of rum were

served out to each man for dinner. During the next two days they ate five cocoa-nuts, and a few yams and scraps of bread-fruit, the remains of what they had obtained at Tofoa,—a quantity had been lost in the hurry and alarm of their departure. Some islands were seen, which they supposed to be the Feejee Islands; but the dread of ill treatment from the natives kept them from landing, although they would have so much desired it for the sake of food and rest. To obtain room the captain divided the men into two watches; one half of the number to sit up while the other lay down. But they had no shelter, and in their wet condition the cold nights chilled them so much that they could scarcely move after a few hours' sleep. At night-fall the captain generally put up a prayer; and so, trusting to the protection of Heaven, the weary castaways pursued their voyage.

One day it came on to rain heavily, which afforded them all a good drink, and by catching the water they increased their stock to more than thirty gal-lons—a seasonable relief. This was followed by a dry warm day, and they took off their clothes and dried them in the sun, and cleaned out the boat and set everything in order. A fishing-line was kept constantly trailing astern of the boat, and a large fish seized the hook, but escaped before it could be taken, much to the disappointment of the hungry seamen. In order to serve out the provisions fairly, the captain made a pair of scales of two cocoa-nut shells. and used a small bullet for a weight, about threequarters of an ounce; this weight of biscuit, and sometimes of pork, with a quarter-of-a-pint of water, was then regularly given to each one three times a day. It seems wonderful that life should be supported on so small an allowance, and had it not been for the teaspoonful of rum or wine which the cap-tain handed round when the men shivered much

with cold, they would hardly have been able to keep up as they did. The cloudy weather, too, was in their favour, for it was easier to bear the cold than the scorching heat which generally prevails in that part of the world, and which would have caused them to die miserably of thirst.

To keep up their spirits, too, the captain told them about New Holland, or Australia as it is now called, towards which they were steering, and explained the situation of Timor and New Guinea, so that if any accident happened to him they might still be able to find their way to the Dutch settlement, of which most of them had never before heard. Here we have a proof of the value of knowledge: had the captain never learned about these countries, he would not have been able to guide the little boat towards them over the trackless ocean, nor to direct and encourage so many half-despairing men as then looked up to him for deliverance. He, however, was an able mariner, and notwithstanding their distressed situation, he made many observations during the trying voyage useful to geography. It is a proof of what is often said, that it is best to hope, even in the worst of circumstances.

On the 14th, they saw some other islands, and many birds, but could not succeed in catching any. Sometimes, when wet with rain, they took off their clothes, and dipped them in the sea, and after wringing the water out, put them on again, and found themselves much warmer and less thirsty than before. On the 20th, they suffered so much from hunger, that several of them seemed more than half-dead, yet they scarcely felt thirst, perhaps from their being almost constantly wet. On the 24th it was again warm and dry, which gave them much comfort, and enabled them to get a little rest. On this day, to make the provisions last as long as possible, they all agreed to do without supper; small as their al-

lowance of food was, it had to be made still smaller! On the next day, however, they caught a noddy, a bird about the size of a pigeon, which was divided into eighteen morsels, of which each person had one, and ate it with the biscuit and water for dinner. This was a most acceptable relief to all; and, to their great joy, on the same day they had as welcome a supper; for they caught a booby—a sea-bird as big as a duck—which also was cut up into eighteen pieces. It was eaten raw, for they had no means of cooking, and the blood was given to such of the men as were weakest. Three more boobies were taken on the 26th, and the poor distressed crew looked on the event as a special relief sent by Providence.

Signs of land began to appear, and on Friday, the 29th, they came to the reefs which stretch for hundreds of miles along the coast of New Holland. These reefs may be compared to a huge wall of limestone rising in the ocean; they are the work of millions of coral insects, which build them up from the bottom to the top of the water in the course of thousands of years. In some places there are channels, or openings, through which a ship or boat may pass, and, once inside, the water is calm and smooth as a lake, because the great sea-waves are kept out by the reef. Soon the weary mariners came to an island, where they landed, and found much comfort in leaving their cramped positions in the boat, and walking about on the solid ground. They found fresh water, and plenty of oysters on the rocks, and collected materials for a fire, so as to be able to prepare a warm meal. The captain had a magnifying glass in his pocket, with which he set a few dry leaves into a flame, so that a fire was soon kindled. The oysters were stewed in an old copper pot which happened to be in the boat, with a piece of pork and some of the biscuit, and made a sayoury and strengthening repast for the half-famished party. It was long since they had tasted cooked food. Besides the pot, a tinder-box and piece of brimstone had been found in the boat, and with these they were sure of fire in future.

Several of the men were set to collect palm-tops and fern-roots, to increase their store of food; they all ate greedily of the berries found growing on the bushes, and, on the 30th, they filled all their vessels with water and made ready to continue their voyage. The exercise and rest, and more abundant food, had the best effects on the whole party, and cheerfulness took the place of despair. They kept on, between the reef and the shore; seeing now and then some of the natives, who made signs for them to land; but they were mistrustful, and sailed on without stopping. They came to another island on the following day, and had another stew of oysters and wild beans, and found sea-fowl's eggs on the sand. Some of the men here complained of being overworked in searching for food, and the captain was obliged to exercise much firmness to overcome their complaints and unwillingness for exertion. Misery and weakness had made them selfish. On the 2nd of June they again landed, and met with a great alarm; one careless man set fire to the dry grass, which spread into a blaze over half the island; luckily, however, no mischief followed. After sunset they went down to the shore, to try to catch sea-fowl, but only got twelve noddies, owing to the birds having been disturbed by one of the party, who wandered away from his companions. This man afterwards confessed that he had caught nine, and devoured them all himself. The captain ordered him to be flogged for his obstinacy.

The next day, June 3rd, they left the coast of New Holland, steering once more across the open ocean to Timor. Six days of comparative comfort and repose gave them new strength and confidence, and all except the captain seemed to think that the danger was past. "I was secretly surprised," he writes, "to see that it did not appear to affect any one so strongly as myself. I encouraged every one with hopes that eight or ten days would bring us to a land of safety; and prayed to God for a continuance of his most gracious protection." The same scanty allowance of food as before again became their sole allowance, but their strength was not equal to the renewed hardship. Murmurings began to be heard, they begged for a greater quantity of food, but the captain steadily refused: he fared no better than the rest. To the weakest men he gave now and then a little wine. Two more boobies and a young dolphin were caught, on which they and a young dolphin were caught, on which they and a young dolphin were caught, on which they dined for two or three days; the boat, too, sailed rapidly before a favourable breeze, and the hope of soon reaching a friendly haven served to cheer their sinking hearts. At last, on the 12th, nine days after leaving New Holland, they saw Timor about two leagues distant. It was a gladsome prospect. As the captain says, "It is not possible for me to describe the pleasure which the blessing of the sight of this land diffused among us. It appeared scarce credible to ourselves, that in an open boat, and so poorly provided, we should have been able to reach the coast of Timor in forty-one days after leaving the coast of Timor in forty-one days after leaving Tofoa, having in that time run, by our log, a distance of 3,618 miles; and that, notwithstanding our extreme distress, no one should have perished in the voyage." They sailed along the coast for some time, voyage. They sailed along the coast for some time, admiring the beautiful scenery; luxuriant woods and shady forests covered the broad slopes and swelling hills where tall palm trees drooped their feather-like crowns, and the broad leaves of the cocoa-nut and plantain waved in the breeze. The men were impatient to land, but the captain

begged them to wait, as the natives might, perhaps, be unfriendly. The next day two or three were permitted to go on shore near some huts: the natives treated them kindly and gave them several pieces of dried turtle and ears of Indian corn, and one of them engaged to go in the boat as a pilot to show the way to Coupang, as the Dutch settlement was named. They were obliged to anchor during the night, and the prospect of deliverance brought such comfort to their minds, that they had "the most happy and sweet sleep that ever men enjoyed." On the 14th, which was Sunday, they came early in the morning to a bay, where stood the fort and town of Coupang, and hoisted a flag, which they had made as a signal of distress, and waited for the answer. Presently a soldier came to the edge of the water and ordered them to land. What a sight for the people of the town! They were filled with horror on seeing the haggard forms and ghastly countenances of the unfortunate mariners, whose eyes glared almost fiercely at the prospect of relief. Their horror however, was mingled with pity, for the castaways were little better than skin and bone, their limbs full of sores, their clothes all in rags, while tears of joy and gratitude flowed down their cheeks as they tottered forwards, scarcely able to believe in their miraculous deliverance. A sailor, whom they met on the shore, advised them to go to the house of Captain Spikerman, a humane Dutch merchant, who received the eighteen miserable wretches, and set them down to a breakfast of tea and bread and butter-a most welcome treat to such a famine-stricken crew. Soon afterwards the governor of the settlement paid a visit to Captain Bligh, and gave up a house for his accommodation, and sent in bedding, clothing, and provisions for the whole party, and a surgeon to attend to their hurt. What a pleasure it was to them to throw off their stiff and threadbare garments, to wash themselves

from head to foot and put on clean clothes, and then to stretch their weary limbs on a soft bed and forget their sorrows and sufferings in calm repose. The captain says in his journal, that when he retired to rest, instead of sleeping, his mind was occupied with "the thanks due to Almighty God, who had given them power to support and bear such heavy calamities, and had enabled him at last to be the means

of saving eighteen lives."

Gradually the party recovered strength; but one of them, Mr. Nelson, the botanist, died of a fever, and was buried in the European cemetery, attended and was surfed in the European enterery, attended to the grave by all his surviving companions. After enduring all the hardships of the voyage he was taken from them in the friendly port, when all danger seemed past. The captain paid a visit to the native king of the island, who lived some distance in the interior; and saw the enormous lumps of wax made by wild bees in hollow trees in the forest, which the Dutch exported in great quantities to Europe together with logs of sandal-wood, cut in various parts of the island. After that he bought a small schooner, and having laid in a supply of provisions, he sailed with his men from Coupang on the 20th of August, towing the launch which had proved to them an ark of safety. They steered past the islands of Sumbawa and Lombok till they came to Java, on which stands Batavia, the largest city of the Dutch colonies, having to keep a sharp watch against the pirates who then infested those seas. Happily they encountered no further danger, and on the 1st of October of the same year (1789) they cast anchor at Batavia. From this port a large fleet of Dutch ships sailed every year to Holland, and in these ships Captain Bligh hoped to get a passage to Europe for himself and his crew. He would have liked to keep the launch, but was obliged to sell her with the schooner. While waiting for the departure, one of the

sailors died of fever, and the captain became so ill with the same disease that his life was in danger, and had he not been removed from the unhealthy city to a house in the country, he would, perhaps, not have recovered. However, on the 16th he was well enough to embark with two of his party on board a vessel bound for Holland, the rest were left to follow in other ships as soon as there should be room. In March, 1790, the captain, and the two that were with him, were landed at Portsmouth: and altogether twelve of the castaways at last reached their native country; the others had died at Batavia, or on their passage home.

Not until then could their surprising adventures be said to terminate; they had been turned out to drift and die on the wide ocean, far from their native land, and far from any friendly aid; yet by the blessing of Providence they had been preserved through trials and sufferings which it is painful to contemplate. Their deliverance may be a lesson to us to put forth rightful endeavours, and exert ourselves to the utmost, whenever adversity overtakes us, and trust to Him who over-rules all things for

the blessing.

CHAPTER III.

THE MUTINEERS AT TOOBOUAL- RETURN TO TAHITI-DEPART FOR PITCAIRN'S ISLAND-THE SHIP BURNT -QUARRELS, AND THEIR FATAL CONSEQUENCES.

WE must now go back to that eventful morning when the mutineers abandoned their companions within sight of Tofoa. As soon as they had left the boat behind, Christian took command, and ordered the ship to be steered towards Toobouai, an island about three hundred miles to the south of Tahiti, where they resolved to land, and make it their dwelling-place. It was seldom visited by ships, and they thought if once settled there they would never be found out, and might enjoy a life of ease and pleasure, in a pleasant country and delightful climate, to the end of their days. But when they came near to Toobouai, and made ready their boats to go on shore, the natives rushed down to the sea-side armed with clubs, spears, and stones, to prevent their landing. So brave and resolute were they in keeping off the strangers, that the ship's cannon were fired at them, and the men in the boats discharged their muskets against the troop of naked islanders, who were only defending their own property. Their spears and clubs were no defence against cannon balls and bullets; and they were forced to give way. It too often happens that strength and power prevail over weakness and justice.

Having got footing on the island, the mutineers found themselves in want of many things for their

proposed settlement, and they sailed to Tahiti, and when the natives asked what had become of Captain when the natives asked what had become of Captain Bligh and the other men, they told them he was staying at Toobouai, with Captain Cook, and had sent the ship to fetch many things which were wanted in the new colony. The chiefs and people of Tahiti were rejoiced to hear that Captain Cook, whom they all loved and respected, was to live so near them, little thinking that the report was false and each intended to design the Thornest Captain. false and only intended to deceive them. Therefore they brought more than three hundred hogs, a number of goats, fowls, a bull and cow, besides abundance of bread-fruit and other vegetables. All these were taken on board the vessel, together with twenty-four Tahitians, men, women, and children, who consented to accompany the mutineers. They reached Toobouai the second time in June, and explained their wishes to the natives, for the Tahitians who had come with them could speak the language. They slept every night on board the ship, and went on shore during the day, where they began to build a strong fort to keep themselves safe from enemies, and all round it they dug a wide and deep ditch for further protection; in the same way as we read in history, that ancient castles used to be surrounded by a moat. This ditch proved a cause of fear to the natives of Toobouai; they fancied it was a big grave in which they were all to be buried; so they laid a plot to kill all the white men some morning as soon as they came from the ship to begin work. But one of the Tahitians who had overheard them talking of the dreadful scheme, swam off to the ship, and gave information of the danger. The Englishmen determined to punish the natives, for what they called their treachery, and made a fierce attack upon them, in which many were killed. However, they now considered that it would be neither safe nor agreeable to stay at Toobouai

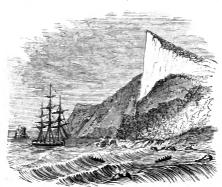
always exposed to danger, and determined to return to Tahiti, where they could live without apprehension. But Christian objected to this proceeding; he knew that, whether Captain Bligh returned to England or not, the government would be sure to send out a ship to learn what had become of the Bounty. He wished to live on some uninhabited island where they would never be discovered, and tried to persuade the rest of the party to join him in searching for such a place. Some consented, the others refused; so they divided such stores and other property as was in the vessel fairly among them, and those who wished to stay at Tahiti went on shore. The Bounty lay at anchor for twenty-four hours, then the cables were cut, and Christian, with eight of his companions and six natives, besides several women who had been invited on board, sailed away, and were not heard of again for many years.

and were not heard of again for many years.

The laws against mutiny are very severe; consequently as soon as the seizure of the Bounty was known in England, the government resolved that the daring mutineers should be captured, if possible, and brought to trial. In 1791 the Pandora, a vessel of war, was sent out to Tahiti to search for the run-aways. She had not been at anchor more than two or three days when fourteen of them gave themselves up as prisoners; two others fled to the mountains in the interior, where they were afterwards murdered by the natives. These were the sixteen who had landed from the Bounty. The Pandora set sail for England, but was wrecked on the reefs off the coast of New Holland, not far from the spot where Bligh and his wretched party had passed. Four of the mutineers besides a number of the crew were drowned, and the others were made to endure cruel hardships on a sandy island, where the survivors took refuge. The ship's boats had been saved, and in these they got to Batavia, and afterwards to

England. The ten mutineers were tried, four were acquitted, and six of them sentenced to death; not more than three, however, were executed. Thus we see that the punishment of their misdeeds overtook them at last.

Meantime, what had become of the Bounty? After her sudden departure from Tahiti, some of the men said it would be best to get out of the way of all the world, and they proposed to go to the Marquesas Islands, which had been visited and described by Captain Cook. But there was a small island in a part of the ocean not much frequented by ships, which had been discovered about twenty years before, and named Pitcairn's Island, and Christian recommended this as the safest hiding-place. Accordingly the ship's course was directed towards it. On their arrival a few days afterwards, they went on shore to examine the island, and see if it was likely to suit them. They



found it very mountainous, with bare crags and steep cliffs in many places, but here and there were patches of good land, flourishing woods, and springs of water. Among the crags there were several large caves, which in case of need would serve as places of shelter and defence, and as the anchorage was not good, and landing difficult, they thought it would not be easy to find a more suitable spot, and concluded to stay there. So the ship was brought nearer, and anchored in a bay on one side of the island, which has since been named Bounty Bay.

They set immediately to work and landed every thing likely to be useful to them, and not wishing to wander farther, they then considered about destroying the ship, because if she were seen by any vessel that came in search of them, their hiding-place would be discovered. Some proposed to run her on the rocks, where she would soon be beaten to pieces by the waves, and several of the men went on board for this purpose; but while they were busy, another of the party set fire to the ship, and in a few hours she was entirely consumed, except the portion under water. Although they were thus relieved from one fear of detection, they could not help feeling downcast at the destruction of the Bounty. All this occurred in January 1790.

The next business was to choose a place for a village. A sloping piece of ground was selected, which commanded a view of the sea, and was sheltered on one side by a forest of palm trees, and on the other by the precipitous crags. When clearing the ground a row of trees was left towards the sea to conceal the village from passing ships. Then the island was divided into nine equal portions, one to each Englishman, but none was given to the native Tahitians. The black men, as they were called, were made to clear and till the land, and assist in all the heavy labour, and before long their masters treated them

little better than slaves. The Tahitians generally are a mild-tempered race, and they would not have complained of this treatment but for the cruelty and injustice to which they were gradually subjected. When the houses were built, the sails that had been used for tents were cut up to make clothes, and the colonists, as we may now call them, began to feel more comfortable than they had anticipated. They had plenty to eat and drink, with abundance of rare and rich fruits, and a genial climate and fertile soil; and for two years their life passed agreeably.

But troubles were in store for them: the wife of one of the Englishmen fell from a cliff one day while searching for bird's eggs, and was killed. Some time afterwards the man wished to take the wife of one of his companions, and on being refused, he seized the wife of one of the black men. This outrage provoked the quietly disposed natives, and they laid a plot to murder all the white men. Perhaps not one would have escaped; for when savage passions are roused they are not satisfied without full revenge. The women, however, revealed the secret by singing

a song-

'Why does black man sharpen axe?
Ahi—Ahi!
Why does black man sharpen axe?
To kill white man.
Ahi—Ahi!'

On hearing this, Christian went to expostulate with the discontented Tahitians, but they refused to listen, and two of them fled to the woods. It was thought dangerous for them to be prowling about, watching to do mischief, and before long the two were betrayed and murdered by their companions. Thus one crime leads to another: had the Englishman not been unjust in the first instance, the poor Tahitians would most likely not have fallen victims to treachery.

For two years after this there was little that

occurred to disturb their ordinary course of life, yet there was not that sympathy and good fellowship among the colonists which we should expect to find in people situated as they were. If one had more fruit or vegetables than required for his own use, he was not very willing to share it with his companions. Some of them worked industriously in their fields and gardens, and kept their houses in order; others were idle and unthrifty, and liked searching for bird's eggs on the mountains better than regular work. Two of the party, Christian and Young, had been respectably brought up, and were well-educated; and they set a good example to the others by their industry and good conduct. Christian was of a cheerful temper and disposition, and always ready with kind words and friendly counsel to reconcile his companions when they quarrelled. To guard against surprise, in case a ship should come and find them out, he built a small hut near the top of the highest mountain, and kept a supply of arms, ammunition, and provisions, in an adjoining cave, intending to take refuge there in time of danger. This spot could only be approached by a narrow path along a ridge of rock, on each side of which the precipice went down many hundred feet, so that to cross it would have been almost certain destruction to any one, as Christian had made up his mind to defend it with his muskets and to die rather than be taken prisoner.

There were two or three among the colonists who always treated the Tahitians with severity, which made the black men resolve on another attempt to get rid of their oppressors. Two of them, therefore, Timoa and Nehow, hid themselves with guns in the woods, and the other two who stayed behind in the huts armed themselves also, and at the time agreed on they stole forth to commence the work of vengeance. Their first victim was the man named Williams, he who had begun the quarrel which led to the death

of the two Tahitians some time before. Then they went forward to Christian's plantation, where he was busy digging his yam plot, and before he was aware of danger, they shot him also. The report of the muskets, and the lamentations made by some of the women, alarmed the other white men, who endeavoured to make their escape; but three more were killed. One of them, named Mills, had remained quietly in his house, making no attempt to save himself, and thinking that as one of the black men was his friend, no harm would befal him, but the Tahitians went to the door and shot him without mercy. Thus, by this cruel slaughter only four of the Englishmen were left alive.

John Adams was one of those who had succeeded in escaping to the woods; after lying in concealment for about four hours, and hearing no further noise, he ventured to creep out to get a supply of provisions from his garden. He left his hiding-place cautiously, and kept himself out of sight as much as possible; but the blacks were on the watch and fired at him with so true an aim, that the bullet went through his shoulder. The pain of the wound made him fall; he lay still for a few minutes to recover his strength, and then got up and ran as fast as he was able back to the woods. The Tahitians, seeing that he was likely to escape, called out to him to stop, and promised to do him no further harm. Adams was weakened by loss of blood, so he waited till the blacks came up; they led him to the house that had belonged to Christian, and the women treated him kindly, and dressed his wounds. Young was led in soon after; but the other two white men, Quintal and McCoy, who had always been the most unjust and tyrannical, would not trust the Tahitians, and fled to the mountains, where they lived for some time on roots and fruits, and such birds and animals as they could contrive to kill.

CHAPTER IV.

FURTHER DISASTERS — OCCUPATIONS AND IMPROVE-MENTS.

As we go on with this extraordinary story, we find more and more reason to acknowledge the truth of the words, "Do what is right, come what may." Had the colonists, remained firm in the path of duty, or had they accorded to others the same liberty which they required for themselves, they would not have had to separate and hide from the world, nor have met with an untimely death. Those who cheerfully do what is right under all circumstances, are saved

from many temptations.

It was not long before further disasters happened in the island, the end of which was that the four Tahitians were killed, as the only means of obtaining peace and security. After this sad event, which took place in October, 1793, McCoy and Quintal came back from the mountains, and the four white men, with ten women and a few children, were all the persons left alive in the colony. At times the women became dissatisfied and wished to go back to Tahiti, their native place; and on two occasions they planned to murder the four Englishmen in their sleep, believing they would then be free to go where they pleased; but their plot was discovered. Then they tore down some of the boards from their houses and built a boat for their voyage, but it would not swim, and upset as soon as launched. Finding it impossible to get away from the island, they became more

resigned and tractable, and for a time all lived together peaceably. The houses were repaired and improved, more land was fenced and cultivated, pits were dug to serve as traps for catching the hogs, which began to run wild, and the colony was well off in the means of comfort and subsistence.

In May, 1795, two canoes were built, in which the islanders rowed out a short distance from the shore and caught quantities of fish, and found them an acceptable addition to their other supplies of food. After that they tried to make bacon by salting some of their hogs, and practised methods for extracting a syrup from the sugar-cane and tee-plant, which grew wild on the island. In the midst of these endeavours they were overtaken by sudden alarms; a ship was seen at sea not a great distance off, and if she came to an anchor their discovery was certain, weather, however, came on to be stormy, and it being difficult to land on Pitcairn's Island, even in the finest weather, on account of the heavy waves that break on the rocky shore, the strange vessel sailed away without stopping. On another occasion McCoy fell from the top of a cocoa-nut tree, and was so sorely hurt and bruised as to be for a time unable to work. Happily the alarms were not attended with consequences more severe. General prosperity seemed to produce a friendly spirit among the colonists; they met together frequently to dine at one another's house in sociable parties, and if any one had more provisions than he needed for himself, or if he had been successful in hunting, the others were permitted to share in the superabundance.

But soon again another misfortune came among them: McCoy had once in the early part of his life worked at a distillery in Scotland, and remembering the way in which spirits were made, he bethought himself of trying to extract a spirit from the roots of the tee-plant; and unfortunately he succeeded. This was in 1798. Quintal then altered his kettle into a still and made spirits also, and after that the two men were very often intoxicated. McCoy drank to such excess that at times he was almost wild with the effects of the liquor, and in one of these terrible fits he threw himself from the top of a high cliff, and was dashed to pieces on the rocks at the bottom. The others were so greatly shocked by the dreadful end of the drunkard, that they made a vow never to taste spirits again, and it is said that most of them kept the vow religiously to the end of their lives.

In the next year Quintal's wife was killed, by falling from a cliff while seeking for bird's eggs, in the same way that one of her female companions lost her life shortly after their arrival on the island. Quintal became discontented at the loss, and, forgetting what had before happened in similar circumstances, he quarrelled with his comrades because they would not give up to him one of their wives. His anger and envy grew to such a pitch, that to save their own lives, Adams and Young were reduced to the desperate alternative of killing him, and then only two of the

mutineers of the Bounty were left alive.

Adams and Young were men of a thoughtful and serious turn of mind; all that had taken place made a great impression on them. One by one their companions had been taken away, and all by violent deaths. Two of the Tahitian women had perished from accident, and such terrible events would be likely to lead the survivors to reflect. A Bible and prayerbook had been saved from the Bounty, and ever since Christian's melancholy end, they had been accustomed to read the church prayers every Sunday, but now they had morning and evening prayer in their own families, and endeavoured to train up their children to habits of order and obedience. Having commenced this good work, they kept steadily on with it together for about a year, when, to the great grief

of the colony, Young died of a disease with which he had long been afflicted. Adams was now the only Englishman on the island; he mourned deeply over the loss he had sustained by the death of his companion, and although left alone, he determined more than ever to carry on the good work of instruction and education which had been begun.

At that time there were nineteen children living, most of them between seven and nine years old. Had they been neglected but a short time longer they would have acquired many bad habits, from which it would have been difficult to reclaim them. As they grew older, the vices of uncivilized life would have blighted whatever good lay hidden in their nature; the savage love of freedom would have made them despise control and guidance; and alternate fits of wild excitement or careless indifference would have shut up their minds from quiet reflection or



simple teachings. Adams set about his labour of love with diligence and earnestness, and to make it complete he began with the women. If the mothers could be brought to a good course of life, it was to be hoped that their example would have a favourable influence upon their children. By the blessing of Providence his endeavours were rewarded with success. The Tahitians are not a stubborn race : the women listened to Adams' teachings, they laid his instructions to heart, they gave up what was blameable and improper in their habits, and lived as became people who felt and understood the difference between right and wrong. The children were not less teachable, they proved themselves quick at learning, and prized what they learnt. Above all they delighted to hear about the Bible; and when Adams related to them the beautiful, solemn, and touching histories, and the impressive precepts from the Holy Book, they would sit for hours with their eyes fixed on his face and never grow tired of listening. Such lessons as these sank deep into the minds of the children. They acquired good habits, and became obedient and religious, and as they grew older several of them were happily married. And in this way, Providence, who brings good out of evil, converted the offspring of misguided men into a virtuous and flourishing community.

CHAPTER V.

THE ISLAND BECOMES KNOWN—THE NATIVES—THEIR MANNERS AND CUSTOMS—DEATH OF ADAMS—CONCLUSION.

More than twenty years passed away before the fate of the Bounty and her daring crew was known in England. Captain Edwards, who commanded the Pandora, had searched during three months among the numerous islands of the South Sea without discovering any traces of the runaways. It was supposed that they had all perished in some of the disasters common to a seafaring life, and few persons expected to hear of them any more, when news came that they had been discovered. In the year 1808, an American schooner was on a sealing cruise in the Pacific-that is to collect seal-skins and convey them to port for sale; and being near Pitcairn's Island, the captain steered towards it in the hopes of finding a number of seals on its shores, as it was supposed to be uninhabited. Much to his surprise three young men came off in a boat with a present of fruit, and invited him to land, and when on shore he found a little colony of thirty or forty people, old and young, among whom were one aged Englishman and several Tahitian women. They were the remnant of those who had come to the island in the *Bounty*, and their children and grandchildren. The old man was Alexander Smith, or as he chose to call himself, John Adams. Here, then, the mystery concerning the mutineers was cleared up, and the American captain, thinking that the British Government would like to be informed of the interesting fact, sent word to the English Admiral at Valparaiso. Several years more passed away without anything further being heard of the Pitcairn Islanders until 1814, when they were visited by two British vessels of war. The natives appear to have been always ready to communicate with ships that neared their shores; they rowed off in their canoes and called out in English for a rope to be thrown to them. When this was done, one of the young men climbed nimbly up the side, and leaped on the deck, and on being asked his name answered, 'Thursday October Christian.' Fletcher Christian, whose melancholy death has been related, was his father, and one of the Tahitian women his mother. He was tall, dark-skinned, good-looking, and wore no clothes, except a piece of cloth round his loins, and a straw hat stuck with feathers. captains looked at him with astonishment, and at first could scarcely believe his statements; but on going on shore they met Adams, who received them at his house, and feasted them with fruit, fowl and eggs, and gave them a full account of all that had happened to the Bounty and the mutineers, from the time that Captain Bligh had been set adrift in the boat. The captains were much interested in what they heard, and not less so in what they saw ; they could hardly believe that a virtuous and intelligent community could have descended from individuals who had set the law at defiance, and studied only the gratification of their own wishes. The young men and women spoke English correctly, and were remarkable for their open and good-natured manners and disposition. Their skins were not so red as is usual among natives of the South Sea Islands, and they had comely English features. There was much in their whole condition and history to excite the warmest feelings of benevolence.

After this, the Pitcairn Islanders saw no other After this, the Pitcairi Islanders saw no other visitors, except now and then a merchant vessel, until December 1825, when Captain Beechey stayed a few days at their village, and brought home a full account of all their proceedings up to that date. He was in command of the ship Blossom, on a voyage of discovery to Behring's Straits. On approaching the island, a small vessel was seen coming off under full sail; which, instead of being a canoe, such as are used by the natives in those latitudes, proved to be a boat built in the English style. She was manned by ten young men, and on one of the benches there sat an elderly and venerable-looking sailor. They asked permission to go on board, and leave being granted, the young ones scrambled up the ship's side as nimbly as squirrels, but the old man was slower in his movements. No sooner did the islanders reach the deck, than they were overjoyed with everything that met their eyes; they had never before seen so large or so rich a ship, as they called it. They were remarkable for their healthy looks, their good behaviour, and simple manners, but it was hardly possible to look at them without a smile, for they were dressed in cast-off garments that had been given to them by the crews of merchant vessels. One had on a coat, with nothing else but a piece of cloth round his loins; another only a waistcoat, or a pair of trousers; not one among them had a whole suit. They asked questions about the ships and people whom they remembered as having touched at the island, and seemed surprised that their visitors on board the Blossom did not know them also; and many of the remarks which they made showed them to be entirely unac-quainted with most of the usages of European society; yet, in several respects, their conduct was superior to that of many Europeans. They would handle nothing without first saying, 'May I touch this, if you please ? which shewed that they had been well brought up, and taught to respect the property of others. They were so honest, that they never thought it necessary to have fastenings to the doors of their own houses, and when in the cabin of the ship, they were obliged to ask some one to open the door for them when they wished to go out, as

they did not know how to turn the latch.

The old man who had accompanied them in the boat was Adams; he was then sixty-five years old, and no longer exhibited any fear of being taken to England or punished for his share in the mutiny. He was treated with respect by the captain and officers, and they were so much pleased with what they saw of their new visitors, that they determined to land, and all set off together in the boats belonging to the ship. They rowed towards the bay where the Bounty had been burnt, but the rocks were so numerous, and the breakers dashed upon them so fiercely, that the English could not venture near the shore; the whole of the party were therefore landed, two at a time, in a whale-boat belonging to the natives, which they knew how to manage skilfully in that dangerous sea.

No sooner did Adams step on shore than his daughter, who had been waiting near the landing-place, ran up and welcomed him with a loving kiss. His long absence at the ship had filled her with alarm for his safety, and his return animated her with joy. Presently she was joined by a number of her companions, well-formed and graceful young women with gipsy complexions, and not less lively and good-natured than the young men. Their long black hair was smoothly oiled and parted, and kept in place by a band of white flowers worn round the head. On hearing that their visitors intended to remain several days, their gladness knew no bounds; they clapped their hands, uttered a thousand kind welcomes, and were, indeed, completely happy.

The island, as I have already told you, consists almost entirely of hills and valleys; and the paths were so steep and fatiguing, that the officers found it very difficult and toilsome to climb where the natives walked with the greatest ease. Children, even, would trot merrily along the rocky slopes with calabashes of water on their heads, in places that seemed quite dangerous to the strangers, who were compelled to move slowly, and to seize hold of shrubs and tufts of grass to support themselves. Long habit had enabled the islanders to cross the steepest passes without fear. On one occasion young Christian leaped from a cliff on to a pinnacle of rock, the top of which was only just large enough to receive his two feet, while all round the precipice went down to such a depth as made the gazers dizzy to look over it. So true it is that by practice we may come to do what seem to be almost impossibilities.

On arriving at the village the officers found five houses built on a level space commanding a view of the sea. The shape of the cottages was something like that of a barn, the sloping roof thatched with palm-leaves. Openings were left in the walls to admit light and air, glass windows not being needed in consequence of the mildness of the climate, and in some of the rooms the sides were made to take away altogether in hot weather, so as to give entrance to the cool sea-breezes. To each dwelling there belonged sheds and out-buildings, in which the cooking and cloth-making were carried on, and pigs and poultry kept. On one side of the clearing stood a large banian tree, more than two hundred paces round, looking itself like a forest with its numerous stems and cool green alleys. On the other side rose the tall crags and steep cliffs filled with ridges and holes, where flocks of sea-fowl built their nests, and brought up their young, and flew about and shrieked all day without molestation. All around grew woods

of tall and graceful palms, sometimes so thick as to be almost impenetrable, while their drooping branches rustled pleasantly as the wind swept over them from the ocean; and here and there were little plots fenced in as grazing grounds for the animals, and fields for crops of bananas, melons, plantains, pumpkins, yams, sweet potatoes, the tee and the cloth-plant. Thus, when the islanders looked from the upper rooms of their dwellings, they could see the fruits of their own industry, and beyond, the magnificence of nature. Adams had a house some distance off, up the side of a hill, where it was cooler and less noisy than in the village, besides which, there were several summer-houses pleasantly situated on the neighbouring heights; and there, too, was the little burial-place, where those who had come to an untimely end, and those who had finished their days in the order of nature, lay side by side in peace.

The visitors were lodged a few in each house, and entertained with a supper, at which the chief dish was a pig baked whole. This way of dressing a pig is in use in all the South Sea Islands: a hole of the proper size is dug in the ground and lined with stones made almost red-hot in the fire. These stones are covered with leaves; the pig, which has been carefully cleaned after killing, is then put in, its inside is also filled with hot stones, and next the vegetables are packed closely round it in all the spare spaces, after which the whole is covered with leaves, rushes, earth, and branches of trees in a large heap, so as to keep the heat from escaping. In a little more than an hour the cooking is complete, and those travellers who have eaten of a pig so prepared, tell us that it is particularly well-tasted, and better than when cooked in our way.

On sitting down to supper not one of the islanders

would touch a mouthful of food until grace had been said, and each had responded 'Amen;' and if any one, by accident, took a mouthful before the blessing had been asked, they suddenly withdrew it, and waited until the speaker had concluded his suppli-cation. The officers were surprised and pleased at this proof of devotional feeling, and not less so at the cheerfulness and good-humour that prevailed. The table was furnished with plates, spoons, and a few odd knives and forks, and those of the natives who were not otherwise provided, ate with their fingers. For drink they had a large pitcher of water which went from mouth to mouth all round the There was only one custom which the English visitors would have liked to see changed; it was that which forbids the women to eat with the men. According to the customs of Tahiti, and other South Sea Islands, females must always wait for their meals until the males have finished, and the Pitcairn Islanders continued the practice. men seemed a little vexed when the remark was made that it would be better were all to sit down to eat at the same time; but the women were contented to wait, and thought it no hardship to stand behind the seats and drive away the flies, or talk to the strangers until the repast was over.

After supper the officers walked out to enjoy the refreshing coolness of the night; the breeze swept through the drooping branches of the banian tree, and shook the feathery leaves of the palms, and high above their heads the stars shone and twinkled in the dark blue sky, reminding them, while the roar of the surf sounded solemnly in the stillness, that a kind Providence watched over that little seabeaten island and its few inhabitants, not less than over greater lands and mighty nations. On returning from the walk, they were shown to their sleeping-places in the upper rooms. Low wooden platforms

fixed in each corner of the apartment served as bedsteads, on these were laid the mattresses made of palm-leaves, covered by a sort of cloth manufac-tured by the islanders. The sheets were of the same, and quite new, so much did the kind-hearted villagers desire to entertain their guests with their best hospitality. The air circulated freely through the openings left in the sides of the house, and the weary officers were sinking to sleep on their comfortable beds, when a sound disturbed them. On listening they heard singing. The family in whose house they lodged had waited until all the lights were out, and then with one voice they sang the evening hymn: they never omitted this nightly thanksgiving. Softly and slowly the solemn melody rose and fell in the silence of the night, breathing out the humble faith and hope of the simple-minded worshippers, who then lay down to rest, confiding in the protection of a Providence whom they loved as well as feared. And so ended the day at Pitcairn's Island.

Before sunrise on the morrow the morning hymn was chanted in the same strain of devotion, it being a fixed practice with the villagers to begin and end their daily duties and avocations with praise and supplication. When the visitors awoke they found all the natives had departed to their ordinary occupations; some to wash clothes, some to prepare a pig and yams for breakfast, while the noise of the beaters showed that the clothmakers were busy at their work. They had not, however, been unmindful of their guests; for baskets filled with ripe fruits were placed by the side of every bed, and the officers' hats were entwined with wreaths of sweet-smelling flowers still wet with the morning dew.

On going out the visitors were met with friendly greetings by the natives, and conducted to the different spots which they wished to visit. Among

others, they went to look at the cloth-makers, who were working in a shed at one side of the clearing, kneeling by the side of a block of wood, on which were laid pieces of the bark of the cloth-tree, or paper mulberry. These pieces of bark are sprinkled with water, and thumped and pounded with a wooden beater, until they become as thin and firm as they are wanted, and of the proper size, and the pieces so beaten are the native cloth of the South Sea Islanders. Some of it worn by the chiefs is finer and whiter than that worn by the common people; and sometimes it is used dyed of various colours. When quite new, it has a crisp, paper-like feel; the sheets on the officers' beds crackled when they laid down upon them, a proof that they were fresh from the beater.

The plantations were next visited: in some were seen the tee-plant with its long broad leaves, which are used as food for pigs, for wrappers, and to line the ovens in which the pigs are baked. The root yields a sweet juice, and sometimes the natives soak it in boiling water and drink the liquid as tea. For candles they burn the nuts of the doodoe tree, which are very oily and give out a clear strong light when fixed in a stand; and from the fibres of the porou and fowtoo trees they obtain their fishing-lines and cordage. The toonena tree furnishes them with timber for houses and boats, and the banian with a resin which can be used to stop the seams of boats and make them water-tight; and from some other trees they get dye-woods. Besides all these, there were plantations of yams, taro, and yappe, roots which grow in the ground something like our potatoes.

While going about the island the natives were heard at times to utter a peculiar whoop, or halloo, to which they give a different tone according to circumstances. Thus they can make known to a long distance if a fishing-net be wanted, or if any

one has lost his way in the woods, and by one of these cries the arrival of the ship's boat at Bounty Bay was announced from one side of the island to the other; for the island altogether is not more than two miles long. During their stay, too, the officers became acquainted with other habits and customs of the islanders. They are remarkably careful in their behaviour, and consider it wrong to joke or indulge in frivolous conversation, and when once they have made a promise or engagement, they keep to it with the strictest attention, even should it cost them great inconvenience. When asked to exhibit the old Tahitian dance, there were but two or three of the women who could be prevailed on to go through the movements. They thought it not only unbecoming, but a heathen custom which ought to be discontinued. On the other hand, swimming or bathing was a great delight to the whole of them, they could stay in the water a whole day, and sometimes the young men would swim entirely round the island. a journey in the sea of six or seven miles.

In addition to other good habits, the Pitcairn Islanders live simply, mostly on vegetable diet, with at times a roast pig. Their drink is water, and not one of them would take spirits, remembering the sad fate of McCoy, who had given way to drunkenness. Their time is chiefly passed in the open air, employed in tillage, repairing their houses or boats, or fishing or mending the tackle. This, with their simple diet, tends to keep them in health, and they seldom need medicine. The officers did not forget to visit the school, where they found the children and younger people busily engaged at their lessons—reading, writing, and arithmetic. Sunday is always a day of rest among them, no work being permitted except cooking, for which all the preparations are made the day before, and the customary exercises of prayer and praise seemed to be even more heartfelt on that day. The visitors went

to the church, which was attended by the whole number of the islanders, neat and clean in appearance, who listened very attentively to the service, which was read by Adams and John Buffet, an American seaman who had settled among them. The latter preached a sermon, and at the close the hymns were first sung by the men, and afterwards by the women and children. Besides being chaplain, Adams performed all the marriages that took place on the island, and he was looked up to by all as the head and father of the colony.

Shortly after Captain Beechey's return to England the government sent a ship out to Pitcairn's Island with supplies of clothing and other necessaries for the inhabitants. Adams, who had for so many years been the guide and counsellor of the community, died in 1829, at the age of sixty-five. The melancholy event filled every heart with sadness and sorrow; and the memory of his teachings and exhortations came back to the minds of the mourners, and caused them to feel that though he was taken from among them, the good he had done would live after him. He was the last survivor of the mutineers of the Bounty, and the closing years of his life afford a striking example of the good that may be accomplished by an individual, even with but small means, if actuated by sincere motives, and a faithful spirit of perseverance.

John Buffet had succeeded Adams as director and adviser of the growing community, and laboured diligently to keep up the good work begun by his venerated predecessor. The number of the islanders had increased to nearly one hundred, and they began to be apprehensive that the quantity of water in the island would be insufficient for their supplies. They considered, therefore, that it would be desirable for them to remove, and at their desire they were conveyed to Tahiti; but ere many months had

passed they were so shocked by the careless habits of the Tahitians, that they requested to be taken back once more to their own peaceful little island, where they have ever since remained, practising the virtues which never fail to bring contentment and happiness.

In 1849 further news was received from Pitcairn's Island: there were then one hundred and fifty inhabitants - seventy-five males and seventy-five females. One of the Tahitian women who had been the wife of Young, was still alive, eighty years old, besides several sons and daughters of the other Englishmen, now well advanced in life. Owing to their industrious habits and simple style of living, there had not been more than sixteen deaths in eighteen years; and in these habits, and living much in the open air, combined with a favourable climate, they found continued health, and their source of their strength, cheerfulness, and activity. Their skill and agility in walking and climbing the steep paths and precipitous crags have already been spoken of, and they still keep up their reputation in these respects. Two of the youths, the sons of Young and Quintal, once carried an anchor, an anvil, and two sledgehammers, weighing altogether more than six hundred weight, and bore the load with so much ease as to show that they thought it a creditable way of displaying their capabilities, and not a disagreeable task. One of them afterwards carried a boat twentyeight feet in length, without any assistance. another occasion, the lieutenant of Captain Beechey's ship, who was a remarkably active man, offered to descend a very steep and perilous cliff with one of the natives, but before long he found it impossible to keep his footing, or to advance or return. The native then taking him by the hand, supported him down the remainder of the descent with as little difficulty as though he were leading a child. This

surprising strength is found more or less in the whole population of the island, males as well as females. Among the parties who have lately visited them was a large and stout man, who was carried from the landing-place to the interior by a native sixty-four years old; and one of the young women proved herself no less capable of carrying the living burden.

Several presents have been sent to the islanders at different times from England, for which they wrote thankful letters in return, and mentioned certain things which would be very useful and acceptable to them. They wanted a cast-iron hand-mill for grinding corn, a supply of medicines, and especially books. Scarcely anything would give them more pleasure than books, for they had altogether fifty-four children at school, besides Scripture classes of young men and women, and without more books they could not advance in knowledge or education. Most of the things which they asked for have been sent to them, and not without benefit; for it is said that "the young men are being instructed in navigation, and some of the lower branches of mathematics; and that all of them, old and young, male and female, live together in the greatest harmony, and in the strictest observance of religious duties-public, family, and private-with every appearance of perfect freedom from crime, and bearing the stamp of extreme innocence and simplicity."

'Now, children, have I not told you about adventures on the sea, such as are seldom heard of? We here take leave of the Pictairn Islanders, in the hope that they may never cease to prosper in all that is good, and that they will always preserve the innocence and simplicity which now shine so conspicuously

in their character.



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